

## CLAIMS

1. A method for managing multiple instances of an application executing in a plurality of computers connected by a network, the method comprising:

5       creating a new object for a new instance of the application, using an existing object of an existing instance, said existing instance being one of the multiple instances;

10       setting up connectivity between the new instance and the network; and

15       starting execution of the new instance;

      wherein the new instance uses the new object, and the connectivity to access a resource shared by the multiple instances.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said act of creating comprises:

      making a copy of said existing object; and

      renaming the copy using name of the new instance.

3. The method of Claim 1 wherein said act of creating comprises:

      automatically choosing a name for the new instance.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said act of setting up connectivity comprises:

adding an entry for the new instance to a file in a computer to describe the new instance.

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5. The method of Claim 4, wherein said computer is hereinafter "first computer" and wherein said creating, setting up connectivity, and starting execution are automatically performed in a second computer, and said act of setting up connectivity further comprising:

said first computer communicating with said second computer.

6. The method of Claim 4, wherein said creating, setting up connectivity, and starting execution are automatically performed in said computer.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein said creating, setting up connectivity, and starting execution are automatically performed in a first computer, the method further comprising:

displaying a list of computers in said plurality; and receiving from a user a selection of a second computer in said list.

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8. The method of Claim 7 wherein:

each computer in said list does not have an instance of said application.

5 9. The method of Claim 7 wherein:

at least one computer in said list already has at least one instance of said application.

10. The method of Claim 7 further comprising:

10 installing software for said application on said second computer if said second computer does not have said software.

11. The method of Claim 7 further comprising:

15 setting up resources for said new instance in said second computer.

12. The method of Claim 1, wherein said act of setting up connectivity comprises:

20 adding an entry for the new instance to a file shared across all computers.

13. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

25 adding an entry for the new instance to a private file in each computer.

14. The method of Claim 1 wherein said act of creating new object comprises:

creating an entry for the new instance in a map file shared across all computers.

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15. A method for managing multiple instances of an application executing in a plurality of computers connected by a network, the method comprising:

shutting down an instance (hereinafter "killed instance") among the multiple instances;

deleting connectivity between the killed instance and the network; and

deleting an object of the killed instance.

16. The method of Claim 15 wherein said act of shutting down further comprises:

de-registering the killed instance from the application.

17. The method of Claim 15 wherein said act of shutting down further comprises:

killing the killed instance.

18. The method of Claim 15 wherein said act of deleting object further comprises:

deleting an entry for the killed instance from a  
private file in each computer.

19. The method of Claim 15 wherein said act of  
5 deleting object further comprises:

deleting an entry for the killed instance in a map file  
shared across all computers.

20. The method of Claim 15 wherein said act of  
10 deleting connectivity comprises:

deleting an entry for the killed instance from a file  
shared across all computers.

21. The method of Claim 15, wherein said act of  
15 deleting connectivity comprises:

deleting an entry for the killed instance from a file  
in a computer that described the killed instance.

22. The method of Claim 15 further comprising:  
20 releasing resources used by the killed instance.

23. A computer system comprising a plurality of  
computers and a shared resource, the computer system  
comprising:

means for creating a new object for a new instance  
using an existing object of an existing instance;

means for setting up connectivity between the new  
instance and a network connected to the plurality of

5 computers; and

means for starting execution of the new instance, such  
that the new instance uses the new object and the  
connectivity to access the shared resource.

10 24. The computer system of Claim 23 wherein said means  
for creating comprises:

means for copying said existing object; and

means for renaming the copy using a name of the new  
instance.

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25. The computer system of Claim 23 further  
comprising:

means for shutting down an instance (hereinafter  
"killed instance");

20 means for deleting connectivity between the killed  
instance and the network; and

means for deleting an object of the killed instance.